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RURAL DISTRICT  
1925.

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REPORTS  
OF THE  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,  
SANITARY INSPECTOR  
AND HOUSING OFFICER**

FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31ST DECEMBER, 1925.

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GREAT TORRINGTON :  
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4, Well Street.





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PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICE,  
TORRINGTON.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Rural  
District Council of Torrington.*

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit for your consideration a Report upon the *Public Health* and upon the *Sanitary Administration* of the Torrington District, for the year ending December 31st, 1925.

*This Report* and the *Tables* are constructed upon the lines which are indicated in the Memorandum, which was issued by the Ministry of Health, 28th December, 1921.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

**FREDK. PRIDHAM,**  
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

# Torrington Rural District.

1925.

## General Statistics.

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	79,793
Population (R.G.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	8,711
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	2,071	(approximately)	
Number of Families or separate occupiers	...	...	...	...	2,071	do.	
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	£68,922 6s. 10d.	
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	£149 10s. 9d.	

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

### BIRTHS.

Legitimate, Males	...	75	Females	...	83	Total, 158
Illegitimate, „	...	3	„	...	4	Total, 7

TOTAL BIRTHS ... 165.

Birth rate per 1,000 population ... 18.15.

Infant Deaths ... 6

Infant Mortality ... 35.2

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

From Sepsis	...	...	...	...	...	0
Other causes	...	...	...	...	...	0

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...	0
„ Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	2
„ Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	1

### DEATHS.

Total Deaths registered corrected for Inward and Outward Transfers	...	...	...	...	...	...	97
Death Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	...	...	...	...	11.13



## CAUSES OF DEATH :—

Senile Decay ... ..	18	Epilepsy ... ..	2
Tuberculosis (Lungs) ... ..	5	Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	0
Tuberculosis (other forms) ...	1	Diarrhœa, &c. (under 2 years) ...	1
Cancer ... ..	20	Appendicitis and Typhlitis ...	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, &c. ...	5	Nephritis ... ..	1
Heart Disease ... ..	12	Sepsis ... ..	0
Arterio-sclerosis ... ..	5	Congenital Debility & Malformation	3
Bronchitis ... ..	10	Suicide ... ..	0
Pneumonia ... ..	5	Other deaths from violence ...	1
Other respiratory diseases ...	0	Other defined diseases ... ..	8

## Notifiable Diseases.

Disease.	Cases Notified.	Removed to Hospital.	Deaths.
Diphtheria ... ..	4	Nil.	Nil.
Scarlet Fever ... ..	12	"	"
Enteric ... ..	1	"	"
Puerperal Fever ... ..	0	"	"
Pneumonia ... ..	2	"	5
Encephalitis Lethargica ... ..	0	"	0
Tuberculosis (Lungs) Males ...	3	"	} 5
do. Females ... ..	5	"	
Tuberculosis (Other) Males ...	0	"	0
do. Females ... ..	0	"	0
TOTAL ... ..	27	0	10

## Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

The County Council provide accommodation for Tubercular patients at Hawkmere and Barnstaple.

There are no Hospitals in the District.

I am glad to report that there has already been a marked improvement in the general conditions, especially in regards to cleanliness under the Dairies and Cowsheds Acts, and it is a matter that is being dealt with and pushed forward as rapidly as circumstances permit.

# Sanitary Inspector's and Housing Officer's Report.

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Summary of Work carried out, as ordered by the  
Torrington Rural District Council, for the year ending  
December 31st, 1925.

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**New Sewers.** Nil.

**The Public Sewers** have been repaired in the villages of Winkleigh, Beaford, Dolton, High Bickington and Little Torrington.

**Public Water Supplies.** The public water supplies have been repaired in the villages of Dolton, Winkleigh, High Bickington, Yarnscombe and Sheepwash.

**Private Water Supplies.** New wells have been sunk in the parishes of High Bickington, Frithelstock, Roborough, Winkleigh, Merton, Beaford, Buckland Filleigh, Petrockstow, Shebbear and Langtree.

**Disinfection of Clothing, Bedding, &c.** has been carried out by the Inspector of Nuisances, who has also given directions for limewashing. Disinfecting has been done with Formulin. In Tuberculosis deaths, or removals, Chlorine and Carbolic Acid are used.

## **Sanitary Inspection of District.** Premises visited :—

Under the Housing and Public Health Acts	...	...	139
Nuisances discovered through insufficient cleansing of closets, yards, drains and pig keeping	...	...	41
Notices served—Formal	...	...	10
do. Informal	...	...	31
		—	41
Notices complied with—Formal	...	...	9
do. do. Informal	...	...	29
		—	38

<b>Slaughter Houses.</b> Number in district	...	...	14
Number of visits to	...	...	102
Number found defective	...	...	8
Number since remedied	...	...	6



**Water Samples.** I have taken one sample of water, and sent your Medical Officer of Health for analysis, which was reported as unfit; since cleaned and protected.

<b>Bakehouses.</b> Number in district	...	...	...	5
Number of visits to	...	...	...	20
Number found defective	...	...	...	2
Number since remedied	...	...	...	2

**Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds.**

Number on Register	...	...	...	87
Number found defective	...	...	...	33
Number remaining defective	...	...	...	16
Notices served (informal)	...	...	...	33
Number of visits to	...	...	...	246

<b>Public Elementary Schools.</b> Number in district	...	23
(including one Secondary)		
Number found defective	...	10

**Public Health Staff.**

One Medical Officer of Health who is part time.

One Sanitary Inspector and Housing Officer who is a whole time Official.

**Housing.**

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total...	...	9
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme...	...	Nil

**I. Unfit Dwelling-houses.**

Inspection. (1) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts 139

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (inspection of district) Regulations, 1910 107

(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health, as to be unfit for human habitation 4

(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation... 48

## II. Remedy of defects without service of formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ... .. 20

## III. Action under Statutory Powers.

Proceedings under section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1919 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... .. 14

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were remedied fit :—

(a) By Owners ... .. 6

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... .. Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close ... .. Nil

## B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. 14

(a) By Owners .. ... 5

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ... .. Nil

## C. Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning, &c. Act, 1909.

(1) Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders ... .. 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... .. Nil

(3) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling-houses having been rendered fit . . . . . Nil

(4) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. Nil

(5) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... .. Nil

**RICHARD GOMER, M.S.I.A.,**

Sanitary Inspector, Surveyor,  
and Housing Officer.



